Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising ~~nucleotides 658 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 736 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1,~~ nucleotides 1 - 1905 ~~163 to 2064~~ of SEQ ID NO:3~~,~~or nucleotides 54 - 1905 ~~217 to 2064~~ of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 658 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 163 to 2064 of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:9 and which encodes a functional β-glucuronidase~~.

2. (Currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes ~~one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 2, residues 27-641 or SEQ ID NO:2,~~ SEQ ID No: 4 or~~,~~ encodes residues 19-634 of SEQ ID NO:4, ~~SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 10, or a variant thereof wherein the variant has at least 90% amino acid identity to one of SEQ ID NO: 2, residues 27-641 or SEQ ID NO:2, 4, residues 19-634 of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 10 and which encodes a functional β-glucuronidase~~.

3 - 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended): An ~~The expression vector of claim 7~~, comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a ~~wherein the~~ fungal β-glucuronidase in operative linkage with a heterologous promoter, wherein the sequence encodes ~~SEQ ID NO: 2, residues 27-641 or SEQ ID NO:2,~~ SEQ ID No: 4 or~~,~~ residues 19-634 of SEQ ID NO:4, ~~SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 10, or variant thereof, wherein the variant has at least 90% amino acid identity to one of SEQ ID NO: 2, residues 27-641 or SEQ ID NO:2, 4, residues 19-634 of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 10, and which encodes a functional ß-glucuronidase~~.

9. (Currently amended): The expression vector of claim 8~~7~~, wherein the fungal β-glucuronidase is encoded by ~~nucleotides 658 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 736 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1,~~ nucleotides 1-1905 ~~163 to 2064~~ of SEQ ID NO:3 or~~,~~ nucleotides 54-1905 ~~217 to 2064~~ of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:9, or by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of nucleotides 658 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 736 to 2580 of~~

~~SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 163 to 2064 of SEQ ID NO:3, nucleotides 217 to 2064 of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:9, and which encodes a functional ß-glucuronidase.~~

10. (Currently amended): The expression vector of claim 8~~7~~, wherein the promoter is functional in a cell selected from the group consisting of a plant cell, a bacterial cell, an animal cell and a fungal cell.

11. (Currently amended): The expression vector of claim 8~~7~~, wherein the vector is a binary *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* plasmid vector.

12. (Currently amended): The expression vector of claim 8~~7~~, further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a product of a gene of interest.

13. (Original): The expression vector of claim 12, wherein the product is a protein.

14. (Currently amended): The expression vector of claim 8~~7~~, wherein the fungal β-glucuronidase is an enzymatically active portion thereof.

15. (Currently amended): A host cell containing the vector according to claim 8~~7~~.

16. (Original): The host cell of claim 15, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a plant cell, an insect cell, a fungal cell, an animal cell and a bacterial cell.

17. (Original): A transgenic plant cell comprising the vector according to claim 7.

18. (Original): A transgenic plant comprising the plant cell of claim 17.

19. (Original): A method for monitoring expression of a gene of interest or a portion thereof in a host cell, comprising:

(a) introducing into the host cell a vector construct, the vector construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, and which encodes a functional ß-glucuronidase and a nucleic acid molecule encoding a product of the gene of interest; wherein the *ß*-glucuronidase and the gene of interest are co-expressed;

(b) detecting the presence of the *ß*-glucuronidase, thereby monitoring expression of the gene of interest.

20. (Original): A method for transforming a host cell with a gene of interest or portion thereof, comprising:

(a) introducing into the host cell a vector construct, the vector construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, and which encodes a functional ß-glucuronidase, such that the vector construct integrates into the genome of the host cell; wherein the *ß*-glucuronidase and the gene of interest a co-expressed;

(b) detecting the presence of the *ß*-glucuronidase, thereby establishing that the host cell is transformed.

21. (Original): A method for positive selection for a transformed cell, comprising:

(a) introducing into a host cell a vector construct, the vector construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, and which encodes a functional ß-glucuronidase;

(b) exposing the host cell to a sample comprising a glucuronide, wherein the glucuronide is cleaved by the *ß*-glucuronidase, such that an aglycone is released, wherein the aglycone is advantageous for growth of the host cell; wherein a host cell that expresses the *ß*-glucuronidase grows, thereby positively selecting a transformed cell.

22. (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising introducing into the host cell a vector construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fungal glucuronide transporter.

23. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the β-glucuronidase is fused to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a signal peptide.

24. (Original): The method of either of claims 21 or 23, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a plant cell, an animal cell, an insect cell, a fungal cell and a bacterial cell.

25. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the aglycone ~~compound~~ is an auxin or a hormone.

26. (Original): The method according to claim 25, wherein the auxin is indole-3-ethanol.

27. (Original): The method according to claim 21, wherein the glucuronide is cellobiuronic acid.

28. (Original): A method of releasing a compound from a glucuronide exposed to a host cell, comprising:

(a) introducing into the host cell a vector construct, the vector construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a *β*-glucuronidase; and

(b) exposing the host cell to the glucuronide, wherein the glucuronide is cleaved by the *β*-glucuronidase, such that the compound is released.

29. (Currently amended): A method of monitoring activity of a regulatory sequence ~~controller element~~ in a host cell comprising

(a) introducing into the host cell a vector construct, the vector construct comprising nucleic acid sequence encoding a *β*-glucuronidase and a nucleic acid sequence of the regulatory sequence ~~controller element~~, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the *β*-glucuronidase (a) encodes a protein comprising the amino sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 2, residues 27-641 or SEQ ID NO:2,~~ SEQ ID No; 4, residues 19-634 of SEQ ID NO:4, ~~SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 10~~ or

(b) hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement ~~compliment~~ of ~~nucleotides 658 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotides 736 to 2580 of SEQ ID NO:1,~~ nucleotides ~~163 to 2064~~ 1-1905 of SEQ ID NO:3, nucleotides 54-1905 ~~217 to 2064~~ of SEQ ID NO:3, ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:9,~~ and which encodes a functional *β*-glucuronidase, and wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding the *β*-glucuronidase is in operative linkage with the regulatory sequence ~~controller element~~ and

(b) detecting the presence of the *β*-glucuronidase, thereby monitoring activity of the regulatory sequence~~controller element~~.

30. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 29, wherein the regulatory sequence ~~controller element~~ is a promoter or an enhancer.

31 – 35 (Canceled)